

From: [Gelatt, Patty](#)
To: [Ireland, Terry](#)
Subject: Re: Revised edition of GRSG grazing info
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 3:15:14 PM
Attachments: [Grazing info specific for Colorado GRSG \(3\)psg.doc](#)

Terry-

I made a few changes, mostly just to make it a bit shorter, and added a paragraph. Here is the track changes version.

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On Tue, May 28, 2013 at 2:41 PM, Ireland, Terry <terry_ireland@fws.gov> wrote:

Just talked to Bridget C. and got some info. She is going to try to check with her Range people on AUM reductions and a couple other questions I had for her but you can review this and if anything changes I will revise.

Assessment of Grazing within Greater Sage-grouse Habitat in Northwest Colorado

The information below provides ~~a partial an~~ assessment of BLM grazing allotments in northwestern Colorado and is taken from a preliminary draft of the BLM GRSG RMP Amendment EIS. ~~The information focuses on lands within BLM allotments but it is a partial assessment because not all land that covers GRSG habitat in northwestern Colorado is within BLM allotments. However, a~~ Approximately 70% of GRSG habitat is within BLM allotments so the information below covers much of the habitat.

There are 15,205,363 acres within the BLM GRSG RMP Amendment EIS planning area, which approximates the northwestern ¼ of Colorado. Of this amount 4,148,469 acres is GRSG habitat made up of 2,365,168 acres of preliminary priority habitat (PPH), 1,487,531 acres of preliminary general habitat (PGH), and 295,770 acres of linkage habitat. There are 792 BLM-managed allotments totaling 2,911,099 acres within GRSG range in Colorado. The allotments encompass not only BLM-managed land but usually other land ownerships as well. For each land category within BLM allotments the percentage of land NOT meeting Land Health Standards (LHS), where grazing was determined to be the causal factor, is calculated below.

Land Health Standard inventories are not specific to sage-grouse but do indicate whether grazing is being managed appropriately and, therefore by inference, would indicate whether suitable sage-grouse habitat is being maintained or is expected to become suitable. ~~Percentages have been calculated for land ownership within BLM allotments by PPH and PGH. No data on condition of habitat were readily available for linkage corridor habitat in Colorado nor was data available for USFS lands (which have standards and guidelines but not LHS). A small amount of land within BLM allotments was categorized as “Tribal/Other Federal” and “Other” land ownership but, due to small size and unknown ownership, percentages were not calculated for these categories. The categories below represent the three largest land ownerships within BLM allotments.~~

Total percentage of land ownership within BLM allotments not meeting LHS:

BLM	24%
Private	16%
State	18%

Percentage of lands within BLM allotments not meeting LHS in PPH:

BLM	18%
Private	12%
State	21%

Percentage of lands within BLM allotments not meeting LHS in PGH:

BLM	31%
Private	22%
State	13%

No large scale reductions of AUMs have been implemented due to sage-grouse according to BLM NW District Manager. In areas with high quality cattle operations that have good populations of sage-grouse, the BLM is recommending that the operator continue existing practices. In areas that exhibit poor rangeland health, the BLM is recommending changes regardless of sage-grouse. Some grazing strategies (fence construction) may be limited or not available in important sage-grouse habitat.